

ERIE ROAD IS WENAGED BY A BIG STRIKE

Employees All Along the Line Dissatisfied with Wage Rates and Committees Are Here to Demand Redress.

NO STRIKE, SAYS COMPANY.

High Official Contends that Its Men Have Little Reason for Grumbling and Declares that the Recent Agreement Should Be Satisfactory

Dissatisfaction is abroad in the Jersey City yards of the Erie Railroad Company. The germ of a strike is in culture. Notwithstanding the fact that the yard employees made an agreement with the big corporation on Feb. 1 to accept a new and higher schedule of wages, they are chafing at the thought that the Pennsylvania Railroad is paying their conductors and brakemen more, and they want an adjustment.

A committee representing the telegraph operators of the Erie, and another with a grievance in hand from the engineers, are in New York for a conference with the officials. They want increases in wages all along the line, and while the likelihood is strong that they will get what they ask, there can be but one result if they do not—a strike.

A reporter of The Evening World spent several hours to-day among the trainmen—the freight car handlers—in the yards at Weehawken, Pavonia and Jersey City, and this is the substance of their complaint, expressed in the language of one of them:

"There is no reason in the world why we shouldn't get what the Pennsylvania pays. We take the same chances; we work the same hours; if not longer, and we do harder work."

Cause of the Trouble.

"The Erie is a rich road, and it can afford to pay as well as the other company. We make \$2.50 for the day and \$2.60 for the night. The conductors make \$2.98 for the day and \$3.04 for the night. Against that, the Pennsylvania pays 25 cents an hour a day and 27 1/2 cents an hour for night. The conductors make \$3.17 a day and \$3.30 at night. That's our kick."

A high official of the Erie said to-day that the road was fully informed of the dissatisfaction that existed among the yardmen.

"But we do not anticipate trouble," he added. "We do not think there will be a strike. Should the men go out they will go back on an agreement made with us on Feb. 1, whereby if they are dissatisfied they will give us thirty days' notice and present their grievance to us through the proper channel—a committee authorized to act."

"We have not been officially notified of the dissatisfaction which exists and we must presume that the men intend to stand by their contract. If they do not hang to their agreement you might as well expurgate the word 'contract' and its meaning from the English vocabulary."

The Company's Side of It.

"The Erie Railroad Company tries to keep in touch with its employees and to pay them the best going wages. We pay our men more than the Lehigh, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, West Shore, New York Central and New Jersey Central. There are five of the biggest roads coming into New York, and we pay more than any of them, with the single exception of the Pennsylvania."

"Why can't you pay as much as the Pennsylvania?" was asked. "The Erie is a big road—one of the biggest transportation concerns in the world. The magnitude of its business is the basis for the public's presumption that it returns a commensurate revenue."

"There is no reason why the Erie should pay as much as the Pennsylvania; no reason at all. We pay, as I said before, the best going wages. The five roads I have mentioned are big dividend-paying properties, capable of paying what the Pennsylvania does, and still we top them. To show that we are inclined to be fair, the schedule that went into effect on Feb. 1 was formulated on an average struck from their schedules. I think that is pretty good."

"Of course, the committee that the men sent to us did not get all that they asked for. They never do and in consequence there is always some dissatisfaction, but I do not think that it has reached the point reported. I do not think that the men will act injudiciously or go out on strike without first having a conference."

Question of Wages.

"Now, there are the telegraphers and the engineers; they are not satisfied with the wages they are getting. They wanted us to make a change the first of the year. We were too busy and told them to let it go until March. They agreed, and now they are represented here by two committees that are waiting on us daily and will, most likely, get what they ask for or as near what they claim is due them as the company can in justice to itself, give."

"There is not going to be a strike. The representatives of those men come to us like gentlemen. They say they have a grievance. We ask them what it is and a conference is arranged. You know there are always two sides to a story, and the company has its own as well as the men. We want our people to live decently, and we try, therefore, to pay them wages that will enable them to do so."

"You really don't believe there is going to be a strike, then?"

"No, I do not. I think the men will

stand by the schedule that they accepted on Feb. 1, and if they are as dissatisfied as to think a strike is necessary they will not go out before they have given us an opportunity to refuse their demands."

"Two months ago the men at Port Jervis—two hundred there, were didn't give any notice that they were going on a strike. They just walked out. The road had employed a yard master from the Lehigh Valley Road, which was against the unwritten law of the Erie. The employees expect promotions to be made from the rank and file. What about that?" the official was asked.

The Port Jervis Strike.

"The men will tell you themselves that they acted injudiciously when they walked out at Port Jervis. It is the desire of the Erie to follow the policy of making promotions from its own employees. It is preferable to do so, but it is not always possible to obtain the right material."

And that, too, is all very well, say the trainmen. The yards at Port Jervis are not the only ones, and there were plenty of material on other divisions of the line from which a yardmaster could have been selected without going to an outside road.

It is the schedule of the Erie for its yardmen that causes the men to complain again. A day brakeman on the Youngstown, Cleveland and Niles Division gets \$2.70 at night \$2.80. The hours are the same as they are on all other divisions of the railroad, yet the Jersey City men only get \$2.50 and \$2.60. At other points the wage ranges from \$2.10 as low as \$3.04 and between the latter figure and the highest, price referred to, what about that?" the official was again asked.

"Well, it just happened that way. When we struck an average some got more than others. Of course, it is true, too, that when the increases were made, the lowest paid men got more than those who were paid more. That has been commented upon, but when the men think of it I trust they will agree with us that we could not do more or have acted more fairly."

COMPLAINANT IS MADE PRISONER.

He Called Magistrate Pool a

Disagreeable Old Man, and Is

Given a Lesson in Civility.

Henry A. Smith, of No. 127 West Fifty-eighth street, appeared in the West Side Court to-day against James Fitzgerald, a newsboy, whom he accused of calling "fake" extras through Fifty-eighth street at 2 o'clock last night.

Smith said he bought one of the papers from the boy for five cents and could find nothing more in it than the ordinary news of the day.

Magistrate Pool said he could not hold the boy and discharged him. Smith, who was standing on one side of the rail in front of the Magistrate's bench, grew angry at the decision, and addressing Magistrate Pool, said:

"You are the most disagreeable old man I ever saw."

"A silence that could almost be felt reigned in the court-room for a few seconds, and then Magistrate Pool stood up and shouted to a court officer: 'Arrest him at once.'"

The officer did so, and made a complaint of disorderly conduct against Smith. Instead of hearing the case at once, Magistrate Pool ordered Smith to be placed at the end of the line of prisoners, and for two hours Smith was given a chance to cool off.

"We have to protect ourselves against such people as you," said Magistrate Pool. "Why, a vagabond on the street would not make such a remark as you did. It is in my power to give you a month's sentence, but as you have apologized and I do not think you mean what you said I will discharge you, but be more careful next time."

EARLY NEWPORT ARRIVALS.

NEWPORT, R. I., March 4.—Judge Henry Bookstaver, Mrs. Bookstaver and Mrs. Charles M. Oelrichs are here.

Mrs. Peter D. Martin, who was the first cottage arrival for the season of 1903, and her daughter, Miss Blanche Oelrichs, Austin Corbin and Austin Gray have returned to New York.

Mrs. Thomas H. Hunter, eighty years old, aunt of United States Senator Westmore, was badly burned by a fire yesterday, caused by throwing a lighted match into a waste paper basket.

Miss Zella Gilman, cousin of Mrs. William A. Gilman, who leased a cottage on Gibbs avenue, has been obliged to cancel her lease, as she has been ordered abroad by her physician.

New Publications.

New Publications.

"They would talk of nothing but high life, and high-lived company, with other fashionable topics."

—OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

The author of "She Stoops to Conquer" could not have levelled this sneer at

The NEW YORKER

A Journal Mainly About Interesting People

Edited by HARRY W. WALKER

Though recognized as the Leading Journal of Society it also provides exclusive news and judicious comment acceptable to the Man of Affairs and the Politician. As fearless as brilliant it has won success without resort to the defestable methods of journalistic blackmail.

Brilliant Gossip of the Clubs and Cafes.

OUT TO-DAY

PRICE 10 CENTS.

At Hotels, Newsdealers and Elevated R. R. Stations.

\$3 A YEAR.

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CONGRESS CLOSES SESSION IN PEACE.

(Continued from First Page.)

last six days in active and vigorous vocal exercise.

Neither were there so many songs as usual, for the filibuster of the Democrats continued from last Thursday wound up the session with a roll call. It was still last Thursday, in a legislative sense, when Speaker Henderson rose to make his farewell address.

Henderson will go out of public life at noon to-day, probably never to come back. His speech was a throbbing and useful effort, punctuated now and then with a long-drawn sob.

Among the heartless members of the House there were few wet eyes. They were too busy trying to "make good" with "Uncle Joe" Cannon, the next speaker, to pay much heed to the ex-speaker.

Closed with Song.

After the gavel fell the singers made their final effort and sang "Auld Lang Syne." "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and other lyrics of similar character until they grew so hoarse they could sing no more.

Meantime, the immigration bill had become a law, with its prohibition against the sale of liquor in the capital and it was necessary to get downtown to get material wherewith to wet the Congressional whistles. There was a speedy exodus for congenial resorts, and by 1 o'clock the House was deserted.

SENATE FILIBUSTERED UNTIL LAST MINUTE.

(Special to The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—Senators Mason and Bailey filibustered the session out on a bill changing the channel at Port Arthur, which Mr. Mason said injudiciously affected some of his constituents who had money invested there. Mr. Mason spoke until the last minute on the Senate rules and the Fillipino people.

There were roars of laughter when Senator Allison conveyed the President's sarcastic congratulations on the admirable manner in which both branches of Congress had transacted the public business. The usual resolution of thanks to President Taft, Mr. Fry was offered by Senator Cockrell and a brief response made by Mr. Fry.

For the first time in many years it was not found necessary to turn back the clock, adjournment being on schedule time.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE BILLION AND A HALF CONGRESS.

Total appropriations.....\$1,554,108,518

To strengthen navy.....80,000,000

For the Panama Canal.....50,180,000

For postal needs.....158,401,549

For rivers and harbors.....47,000,000

PASSED THESE BILLS.

Providing civil government for the Philippines.

New Bankruptcy law.

Eliminating from Interstate Commerce law imprisonment of railroad officials.

Expediting cases under the Sherman Anti-Trust law.

Creating the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Applying government aid to restoration of arid lands.

Prohibiting transportation of unmarked oleomargarine.

Providing a General Staff for the army.

Establishing a national militia.

Requiring automatic couplers on railway cars.

For construction of the Panama Canal.

Providing for increase of the navy.

Providing a Philippine currency.

Immigration bill, with prohibition of sale of liquors in the Capitol.

Hay-Pauncefote treaty for construction of an isthmian canal.

For purchase from Spain of Cagayan and one or two other Philippine islands.

Renewal of commercial treaty with Spain.

Alaskan boundary treaty.

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CANNON TALKS OF BLACKMAIL.

Next Speaker of Congress Hits at Tiltman and Criticizes Senate for Passing South Carolina Appropriation.

MUST CHANGE THE RULES.

House Should Have Been Consulted in Matter and Unanimous Consent Secured—Majority Should Rule at All Times.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The speech of Representative Cannon, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, delivered at 1:30 A. M. to-day in the House on the conference report on the General Deficiency Appropriation bill, protesting against "legislative blackmail," and insisting on the right of a majority to rule in the Senate, in view of the fact that he is to be the speaker of the next House, is regarded as foreshadowing a contest upon this question. The speech was the most remarkable of the House session just concluded.

Late as the hour was the weary members were fired with enthusiasm, and they cheered his utterances until the great hall resounded with their shouts. Congressman Cannon, while not mentioning Senator Tiltman, aimed his talk largely at him while criticizing the Senate for acting on the \$47,000 war claim of South Carolina.

Concerning this, he said that auditing officers of the Government in passing on the claims of the various States, found due to the State of South Carolina the sum of \$4 cents.

He then continued: "Now, the Senate of the United States, notwithstanding the law, proposed legislation on an appropriation to the extent of granting to the State of South Carolina \$47,000. The House conferees objected, and the whole delay has been over that one item."

In the House of Representatives with individual members, we have rules, sometimes invoked by our Democratic friends, and sometimes by ourselves—each responsible to the people after all is said and done—by which a majority right or wrong, can legislate. In another body there are no such rules."

Mr. Cannon contended that "we can have no legislation without the approval of both bodies, and one body, in my opinion, cannot legislate without unanimous consent."

"There was the alternative," he continued. "In my opinion this applied not only to the Deficiency bill but to the Naval bill or an agreement as to the Naval bill. Your conferees had the alternative of submitting to legislative blackmail, or of letting these great money bills fail."

"Now, what are we going to do about it? This bill contains many important matters, your appropriations for public buildings, and later on, I shall not say where—or of letting these great money bills fail."

"I have made my protest, and in my opinion another body under these methods must change the method of procedure or our body backed up by the people will compel the change, else this body, close to the people shall become a mere sander, a mere tender of the pregnant hinges of the knee to submit to what any one member of another body may demand of this body as a price for legislation."

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WOMAN OF 76 ARRESTED.

Store Detective Accused Her of Pilfering Goods.

An old woman, with snow-white hair, which curled in ringlets above her temples, was in the Jefferson Market Court to-day, charged with the theft of a small department store where she was arrested yesterday afternoon by a store detective.

She gave her name as Mrs. Letta A. Grammer, seventy-six years old, of No. 172 West One Hundred and Fifth street, who was called out in the West Twentieth Street Station and was not obliged to pass the night in the cells. The woman was George R. Sutherland, a banker at No. 49 Wall street, who lives at No. 162 West One Hundred and Fifth street. No formal charge was made against Mrs. Grammer, the store detective refusing to make a complaint. She was discharged.

MAY KEEP GIRL SHE TOOK AT A WEDDING

Magistrate Olmsted Will Turn Little Pauline Scharfstein Over to Her Real Mother.

Although he has not handed down his formal decision Magistrate Olmsted, sitting in the Children's Court, has decided that he will allow Mr. and Mrs. Scharfstein, who created a panic at an east side wedding a few days ago, by seizing their seven-year-old daughter Pauline from Mrs. Mary Schwartz, may retain the possession of their little girl.

Mrs. Schwartz is a wealthy woman and lives in a fine house in Old Bridge, Pa., and the Scharfsteins are very poor. Mrs. Schwartz adopted the child, but the Magistrate has learned that the Scharfsteins are honest people and able to support their child in comfort, if not in luxury. Agents of the Gerry Society have investigated the case and Magistrate Olmsted reached his decision on their report. Mr. Scharfstein is the janitor of a Clinton street synagogue.

All Cars go direct or by transfer to our doors.

H. Batterman

More Charming Than Ever Are These New Spring Suits For Women.

There's a style and dash about these suits that manufacturers never before attained.

The first to come up for mention is made of Lymanville Cheviot, black only, in blouse style. It has a nine-gore skirt, both jacket and skirt finished in fine tailor stitching and lined with excellent taffeta. With each suit comes a taffeta drop. \$20 should be the price of the suit. For Thursday.....

12.75

Second on the list are some very fine broadcloth suits, also in blouse style. These, however, are beautified with plush skirts on jackets and are finished with straps and silk piping. Jackets are collarless, but have two silk-lined capes. Their true value is \$22.50. For Thursday we offer them at, each

15.00

Dressmakers' Sale of Trimmings

Those very popular braid ornaments that set on each side of a bodice and are connected by one or more drooping cords, known as Fourragers, are here in white, tan, navy and brown, and their prices

25c to 2.49

Perle Bands: cherry and straw berry designs, also 63c to 1.98

Fancy Drops in black, 9c to 1.75

white and colors.....

Loops of Frogs, in black, 5c to 45c

white, tan, brown, navy.

Applique Trimming—Black, white and navy shades, in grape, acorn, cherry, misty other attractive designs; per 75c to 1.98

Complete stock of Braid, Buckles, Crochet Rings, Acorns, Triangles, Olives, Girds, Girdles, &c.

What \$2.98 Will Buy in Boys' Clothing.

Here is a trio of excellent values in boys' clothing for present-day use. There's a uniform goodness about all our clothing, and for Thursday we've decided that uniformity to the prices.

Two-Piece Double-Breasted Suits, for ages 7 to 15, in tan, covert, blue serge and a number of dressy mixtures.

Tan Covert Topcoats, for boys of ages 3 to 15, in a number of neat colors.

Severe Sailor Suits, Norfolk and Three-Piece Vest Suits, trimmed elegantly, for boys of ages 3 to 15.

2.98

Broadway, Graham and Flushing Aves., Brooklyn.

GENERAL O'BEIRNE SAYS:

"Pe-ru-na Is an Effective Cure for Catarrh."

General James R. O'Beirne, 290 Broadway, Washington, D. C., late Commissioner of Charities of New York City, N. Y., and Assistant Commissioner of Immigration, writes as follows:

"As many of my friends and acquaintances have successfully used your Peruna as a catarrh cure, I feel that it is an effective remedy, and I recommend it as such to those suffering from that disease as a most hopeful source of relief."

JAMES R. O'BEIRNE.

Spring Time the Best Season of the Year to Treat Chronic Catarrh.

Notwithstanding that a great number of people have been cured of chronic catarrh by taking Peruna during the past cold season, yet it cannot be denied that the cold, wet, stormy weather has retarded many cures, and, in some cases, actually prevented a cure.

But springtime has come at last, and now is the time for all catarrh sufferers to begin a systematic course of treatment for this disease. The greatest difficulty in the way of treating chronic catarrh is that the patient is so liable to catch cold during the treatment and thus delay a cure.

This liability at this season of the year is, in a great measure, removed, and no one should neglect the opportunity to take treatment.

Peruna is acknowledged by every one to be the only reliable and unfailing cure of catarrh wherever it may be located. When you take Peruna you are not experimenting with an unknown remedy.